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AMERICAN INFORMATION SERVICE, PARIS
PRESS SECTION

206

Atrocites allemandes a la prison de Pierre Levee
a POITIERS

Deposition
~~Temoignage~~ de Monsieur Emile ClaEYNS.

Monsieur CLAEYNS Fut arrete le 14 decembre 1943 par la gestapo et emprisonne jusqu'au 26 aout 1944 a la Pierre levee.Mutile de guerre a loo % plus 9 % il fut enferme avec 6 autres personnes dans une chambre de 8 m2 il ne fut pas torture, mais vu mourir deux comdamnes a la suite des tortures qui leur avaient ete infligees. L'un des detenus perdit 30 Kgs en un mois et mouru de gangrene aux jambes cause par la torture. Les victimes etaient frappes d'une facon effroyable, on leur infligeait la torture electrique. La torture etait particulierement terrible lorsque les allemands n'avaient pas une idee claire de l'information qu'ils vou laient avoir.

Pour copie certifiee conforme
Le Délégué du Gouvernement provisoire
de la République Française
au Ministère Public du Tribunal International
des Grands Criminels de guerre

Service de Recherche des Crimes de Guerre Ennemis
pour le Garde des Sceaux, Ministre de la Justice
le Directeur du Cabinet,

INTERNATIONAL MILITARY TRIBUNAL
NURNBERG, GERMANY
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AMERICAN INFORMATION SERVICE, PARIS
PRESS SECTION

F 558 18 October 44

To : Capt P. Miller

From : G. Picard

Subject : German atrocities at Pierre Levee prison, Poitiers.

1. Witness is Monsieur CLAEYS Emile, off. 1914-1918. Officier de la Legion d'Honneur, medaille Militaire; blesse 100% plus 9%.

2. Mr. Claeys was arrested on Dec 14 1943 by the Geatapo and imprisoned at the Pierre Levee jail until August 26 1944. He was accused of concealing a radio transmitter. This was true, but could not be proved, as transmitter had not as yet been installed by the Resistance in his home.

3. While in jail he asked for a matress as wounded of the war. He was told that he would get it if he confessed. He had to sleep on 1 inch of straw on ground. Seven men in one room 4m x 2m x 2,80 heighth. WC twice a day only. 20 days without going out of cell. WC was great discomfort to him because of wounds. The Germans refused to do anything about it.

4. Was not tortured or beaten personally but tells of the following MR. Madelrieux entered jail 3 or 4 June 1944, and died 3 days afterwards, due to trotures. Cell No 25.

a) Mr. Gerard, domiciled Epannes, entered jail a Sunday morning. Was beaten the same day until unconscious. Beaten again next morning. Died next day.

b) One weighed 120 Kg, and lost 30 Kg in a month. Was in isolation cell for a month. Was tortured there and deid of gangrene of legs due to wounds caused by torture. Died after ten days' agony, alone and without help.

5. Torture was inflicted as follows.

a) Victim was kept bent up by hands attached around right leg. Was then thrown on the ground and beaten with a Schlag, for 20 minutes. If he fainted, they would throw a pail of water on his face. This was to make him speak.

Mr. Francheteau, Clisson en Vendee, (barber) was treated that way four days out of six. In some cases, patient was not tied. If he fell, they would pick him up by the hair and go on.

In other cases, victim was put naked in special " cellule de correction", his hands were tied to an iron gate above his head. He was then beaten until made to speak.

b) Beating as above was not common, but Mr. Claeys has friends who

B48559

have seen electric torture. (Name of witness is Mr. Garcia, of Communist party, who was tortured and send to Germany; escaped afterwards).

One wire was attached to foot and another wire placed in various spots of the body.

6. Torture was particularly horrible as German in many cases had no clear idea of what information they wanted, and went on aimlessly.

7. Food: Mr. Claeys ate carrots in water 35 times in 30 days. Very small amount of mouldy bread. So called coffee in the morning. Once a week, so called macaroni. According to Mr. Claeys, this regime would not have sufficed. They received two food packages a week. Germans stole from about all of these.

Mr. Claeys tells of a certain Emonet or Emoneau of La Rochelle, who was at le Fort du Ha, Bordeaux.

Torture there was hanging up by hands tied behind back until shoulders were completely out of joint. Afterwards, soles of feet were cut with razor blades, and then victims were made to walk on salt.

George Picard
Chief Press Section
American Service of Information

Pour copie certifiée conforme
Le Délégué du Gouvernement provisoire
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au Ministère Public au Tribunal International
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Service de Recherche des Crimes de Guerre Ennemis
Pour le Garde des Sceaux Ministre de la Justice
le Directeur du Cabinet.

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306

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304

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H4483 – 0005